

Beautiful view from Gorkha



Meeting with School teachers in Biratnagar to explore one of the schools suggested for CLEC project.

DB4N President and Founder Ed Antoine visits a school in Biratnagar to explore and discuss the potential installation of two Computer Learning Environment Centers.



President's message

Ed Antoine

Yes, Communities in Nepal want more CLECs! I just came back from Nepal where I met with communities, teachers, leaders and students. Everyone I spoke to expressed the **tremendous need and urgency** to improve education so students can connect to and generate meaningful opportunities in their home districts. I also accompanied the Nepal team during the installation of our Computer Learning Environment Center in Gorkha. These installations in remote areas demand enormous resiliency, and our team continues to deliver on time, on budget, and in collaboration with the community. The response from the community filled me the whole team with **extraordinary hope for a future full of opportunity**. You can read more about the latest CLEC in Prakash article.



Ministry of Education's goal of developing "self-sustainable, competitive, innovative and value-oriented citizens for the socioeconomic transformation of the nation." In the words of one of the students we interviewed after they experienced the CLEC, Manoj, said "CLEC will play a vital role in my life" - *le mahatwa bhumika!*. You can read more in Nitesh's article.

In conclusion, the trip was an enormous success. YES communities want more CLECs! BUT we need you to **help us** deliver and fulfill our plan to install 6 new CLECs next year! Click through to learn more about our goals and vision, and consider supporting us through our Year End Appeal.

While installing the new CLEC in Gorkha, the excitement on the faces of the mayor, the principal and the amazing teachers and students was obvious. They were incredibly impressed by our ability to quickly install the CLEC and immediately get students up and running exploring the opportunities opened up through access to the internet. The Mayor is now requesting Digital Bridges help in designing and installing a modified version of our CLEC for the **new municipal building** under construction! This is very much in line with our vision of community collaboration at Digital Bridges.

I was pretty overjoyed too. The community's response instills confidence that **Digital Bridges 4 Nepal is fulfilling its mission to act as a critical catalyst by accelerating the transformation of the Nepalese education system. We are helping deliver on the**



Chairmen Jhabindra Kumar Subedi and Ed Antoine meet with Nagesh Koirala, Mayor of Biratnagar, Nepal's second largest city, to discuss installing Computer Learning Environment Centers in the marginalized districts within the city.

CLEC IN GORKHA

by Prakash Shrestha



Our amazing partners from Putalisadak who supply the equipment for our CLEC unload everything at Shree Siddhakali Higher Secondary School.



Loading in the UPSs to be used in the new CLEC.



Students with computer accessories.



Team work makes the dream work. Loading in the tables that will house the computers in the CLEC.

Our newest CLEC in Gorkha has been successfully installed! On Nov 3, we collected all the equipment from our suppliers from Putalisadak. Due to Tihar, one of the biggest festival in Nepal, it was very difficult to find the computer equipment, however, our new computer supplier was able to manage all the equipment. It was very challenging to load equipment in Putalisadak area because it is very busy and has the most traffic in Kathmandu valley. Twice, traffic police interrupted us not to park the van on the road. However, we were able to deliver all the equipment to Pharping where our partner supplier, Saugat has his electrical and furniture shops. We loaded all the equipment on the truck in Pharping in the evening time so that we can leave for Gorkha early and we did not miss any things. **Our organization values resilient delivery.** Digital Bridges 4 Nepal always acts as a catalyst and co-creates with different partner suppliers for **on time on budget delivery.** Digital Bridges 4 Nepal is always able to overcome challenges through creating a true relationship with our suppliers and co-create with them as well as request them to inform us of new technologies that become available in Nepal.

We encourage you to visit our Facebook or Instagram to view the photo gallery of our installation in Gorkha. **Not only is it amazing to see the process for yourselves, but Gorkha is a beautiful region filled with ambitious young people. Please check it out [\(link\)](#).**

After the installation, Digital Bridges conducted a training session for teachers and students over the next 3 days. The teachers and students eagerly engaged with our team and were happy to learn new ways of teaching and engaging students' curiosity and eagerness to study on their own. Again, check out our photo gallery to see the excitement on the faces of the students, and our team!

At the close of our training, we celebrated the handover to community ownership with a ceremony in the CLEC. We were absolutely delighted that one of the most critical partners, **Mr. Ganesh Lamichhane, President of the Lions Club of Baltimore Nepalese came all the way from the US to join us in the ceremony.** He was very happy to see the results of the support offered by the Lions Club members, and was personally moved because the new CLEC was installed in the school where he studied as a child. At the handover ceremony he expressed his confidence that the CLEC will not only benefit the individual school but the whole community in Bhimsen Thapa Rural Municipality.

Saugat Balam, one of our partners, and an important supplier noted that all the teachers and students were visibly excited about the new CLEC in their school, and the school principal was very active and regularly following up with the team progress and potential of the new CLEC.

RESPONSES ABOUT CLEC

by Nitesh Prasai



Two students (peer-to-peer learning) at one of the new desks at the CLEC.



Teachers and Students explore the capabilities of the new equipment in the Computer Learning Environment Center.

STUDENT RESPONSE

Computers are great, but CLECs are exciting! At first, students thought that they were getting a regular computer lab. But after we completed the installation and training session, they could see for themselves what the CLEC is all about.

"Today I can learn more than yesterday, and tomorrow I can learn more than today because now I have a CLEC,"
-**Sudip Lamichhane, Grade 11.**

According to the students, the methodologies and equipment that are used in the CLEC will help unlock their maximum potential.

We are thrilled by the response from the communities we met over the past month in Nepal. And we are deeply grateful for the support of organizations like The Lions Club of Baltimore Nepalese who funded the new CLEC in Gorkha. But to continue the momentum and deliver for the students and teachers we met, **we need your help.**

TEACHER RESPONSE

The teachers were inquisitive, but admittedly confused with the CLEC at first. After the complete installation and training session, all of them were amazed and excited.

The teachers really welcomed the methodologies and decentralized layout of the CLEC. During the training session they were very attentive and engaged. They told us the ways they have been teaching are very traditional and in need of a serious upgrade. They want their students to actively engage in the learning process, and not just sit, listen, and memorize. With the new CLEC, they told us they can now do their own research into their subject matter, learn new methodologies online, and truly unlock the critical thinking skills of their students.

We were really happy with the reception, and really proud that we are able to do more than provide technology. As we left, the teachers expressed their excitement about conducting classes in the CLEC. And we can't wait to see the impact they have on their eager students!

Please make a donation today, and join us in building a bridge between the education system in Nepal today, and the modern education system the Nepalese people desire and demand.

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